

Temporary employees of the General Assembly are exempt from the provisions of G.S. 135-3(8)c., as to compensation earned in that status."

SECTION 2. G.S. 120-32.01 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-32.01. Information to be supplied.

(a) Every State department, State agency, or State institution shall furnish the Legislative Services Office and the Research, Fiscal Research, Program Evaluation, and Bill Drafting Divisions any information or records requested by ~~them~~ them and access to any facilities and personnel requested by them. Except when accessibility is prohibited by a federal statute, federal ~~regulation~~ regulation, or State statute, every State department, State agency, or State institution shall give the Legislative Services Office and ~~the Fiscal Research Division~~ these divisions access to any data base or stored information maintained by computer, telecommunications, or other electronic data processing equipment, whether stored on tape, disk, or otherwise, and regardless of the medium for storage or transmission.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, access to the State Personnel Management Information System by the ~~Research and Bill Drafting~~ Research, Bill Drafting, and Program Evaluation Divisions shall only be through the Fiscal Research Division."

SECTION 3. Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new article to read:

"Article 7C.

"Program Evaluation.

"§ 120-36.11. Program Evaluation Division established.

(a) Division. – The Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly is established. The purpose of the Division is to assist the General Assembly in fulfilling its responsibility to oversee government functions by providing an independent, objective source of information to be used in evaluating whether public services are delivered in an effective and efficient manner and in accordance with law.

(b) Director. – The Director of the Program Evaluation Division is appointed by the Legislative Services Commission and serves at the pleasure of the Commission. The Director is responsible for hiring and dismissing employees of the Division and directing the activities of the Division. The Director may not hire or dismiss an employee without the approval of the Legislative Services Officer.

"§ 120-36.12. Duties of Program Evaluation Division.

The Program Evaluation Division of the Legislative Services Commission has the following powers and duties:

- (1) To examine a program or an activity of a State agency and evaluate the merits of the program or activity and the agency's effectiveness in conducting the program or activity.
- (2) To develop quantitative indicators for measuring the activities performed and services provided by a State agency and the extent to which the activities and services are achieving desired results.
- (3) To develop unit cost measures to determine the cost of activities performed and services provided by a State agency.
- (4) To determine if a program or an activity of a State agency complies with the agency's mission, as established by law.
- (5) To make unannounced visits to a State agency when needed to evaluate a program or an activity of the agency.